

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13

OIC-02 GSA-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03

H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 /133 W

-----101617Z 124490 /46

P R 101532Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9293

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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FOR: EB/ISM - MR. LENAHA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN

SUBJECT: TIN -- FINAL DAY OF 3RD ITC SESSION

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REFERENCE: (A) LONDON 270 (B) STATE 1392

1. SUMMARY. SECOND AND FINAL DAY OF THE 3RD SESSION, INTERNATIONAL TIN COUNCIL (ITC), WAS CHARACTERIZED MOSTLY BY LENGTHY, OFTEN INCONSEQUENTIAL DISCUSSION OF ITEMS INITIATED FIRST DAY. MEETING DENIED BUFFER STOCK MANAGER RIGHT TO OPERATE ABOVE CEILING (BUT SENSE

OF MEETING WAS HE IS NOT FORCED TO PUT ALL TIN ON MARKET AT ONCE). AT HIS INSISTENCE, PRODUCER VICE-CHAIRMAN AGIDI'S /HONOR WAS PROTECTED BY A REAFFIRMATION OF THE COUNCIL'S CONFIDENCE IN HIM BY PRESS COMMUNIQUE; MARCH 1-3 SET FOR DATE OF 4T/H SESSION. COUNCIL MET BRIEFLY AS WORKING PARTY TO QUESTION UNCTAD LEGAL ADVISER ON RATIFICATION ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

2. CEILING PRICES. CONSUMER VICE CHAIRMAN LEGOUX WAS REBUFFED IN HIS EFFORTS TO GIVE BUFFER STOCK MANAGER DISCRETION TO BUY AND SELL WHEN PRICES REMAIN ABOVE THE CEILING, AS WELL AS IN HIS ATTEMPTS TO CAST FAILURE OF HIS PROPOSAL IN TERMS OF A CLEAR CONSUMER-PRODUCER ISSUE (BOTH US AND FRG HAD EARLIER EXPRESSED SERIOUS DOUBTS). LATER, HOWEVER, LEGOUX RECEIVED CLARIFICATION THAT ARTICLE 28(C)(I) DID NOT MEAN THAT THE BUFFER STOCK MANAGER NECESSARILY HAD TO PLACE ALL REMAINING TIN ON MARKET AT ONCE. TO PUT AN END TO LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF THIS PROPOSITION -- WHICH NO ONE DISAGREED WITH -- USDEL NOTED THAT IN PRESENT MARKET SITUATION GOOD SENSE WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE PRUDENT DISPOSAL, BUT THIS SHOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE CORRECT RESPONSE FOR ALL SITUATIONS; ULTIMATELY, MANAGER HAD TO SELL, BUT OF COURSE, HE COULD NOT BUY.

3. PRESS RELATIONS. AT HIS REQUEST, THE COUNCIL INCLUDED A REAFFIRMATION OF CONFIDENCE IN VICE CHAIRMAN AGIDI AND INSTRUCTED CHAIRMAN LAI TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE METAL BULLETIN REGARDING THE ARTICLE WHICH AGIDI LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOUND PERSONALLY OFFENSIVE. DESPITE RESERVATIONS ON THE PART OF THE U.K., CANADA AND THE U.S. CONCERNING THIS METHOD OF DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM, OBVIOUSLY AGIDI WAS UNDER STRONG PRESSURE FROM HIS GOVERNMENT, SO COUNCIL AGREED.

4. FIRST MEETING OF WORKING PARTY. COUNCIL REVERSED SELF TO HOLD A SPECIAL, FIRST SESSION OF THE WORKING PARTY OF HEADS OF DELEGATIONS IN ORDER FOR "OFF-THE-RECORD" DISCUSSION OF LEGAL ASPECTS OF BOLIVIA'S NON-RATIFICATION. UNCTAD LEGAL ADVISER CAULFIELD, HOWEVER, WAS ABLE TO DO LITTLE MORE THAN TAKE NOTE OF QUESTIONS POSED, FOR STUDY IN NEW YORK AND A SUBSEQUENT OPINION. (IN CONSTITUTING THE WORKING PARTY, NO ONE PHYSICALLY LEFT ROOM -- DELEGATIONS REMAINED COMPLETELY INTACT -- SO WORKING PARTY WAS SIMPLY A LEGAL FICTION TO DIVORCE DELEGATES FROM THEIR OFFICIAL CAPACITIES; PRESUMABLY, HOWEVER, SIZE OF DELEGATIONS WILL BE KEPT TO A MINIMUM IN FUTURE SESSIONS TO PRESERVE INFORMALITY. WORKING

PARTY REJECTED A SUGGESTION BY AGIDI THAT A SUB-GROUP
BE SET UP TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH BOLIVIANS./FIRST
SUBSTANTIVE SESSION WAS SET FOR FEBRUARY 7-8.

5. IBRD. RE PARA 2 OF REF (B), A REPORT BY THE BUFFER
FINANCE COMMITTEE, AS REVISED BY THE COUNCIL, STATED
INTER ALIA, "...IT WAS NOTED THAT NOTHING FURTHER COULD
BE USEFULLY PURSUED IN THIS DIRECTION UNLESS THE IBRD
CHANGED ITS EXISTING POLICY." REPORT CONCLUDED BEST

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COURSE WOULD BE FOR APPROACHES TO IBRD BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS TO GET POLICY CHANGED, AND THAT "...A PAPER SHOULD BE PREPARED OUTLINING THE COUNCIL'S EARLIER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEGOTIATIONS IN THIS AREA FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL."

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING. THE FRG, WITH SUPPORT FROM THE U.S. AND HUNGARY, QUESTIONED ADVISABILITY OF SHIFTING THE DATE FOR THE FOURTH SESSION FORWARD BY A MONTH, TO MARCH 1-3 (THERE WILL BE CONSUMER AND PRODUCER GROUP MEETINGS ON FEBRUARY 28). HOWEVER, PRODUCERS, THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN AND SOME CONSUMERS ALL WEIGHED IN HEAVILY FOR THE EARLIER DATE. THE PRIMARY JUSTIFICATION WAS THAT THIS WOULD LEAVE MORE TIME IF WORKING PARTY CONCLUDED ONLY VIABLE COURSE WAS TO AMEND PRESENT AGREEMENT TO EXTEND DEADLINE FOR EXPIRATION OF PROVISIONAL STATUS. AGIDI CLAIMED PRODUCERS WERE UNANIMOUS FOR EARLIER DATES, WITH STRONG SECONDING FROM AUSTRALIA AND /MALAYSIA. A FIFTH SESSION WILL STILL BE REQUIREO IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF THE YEAR.

7. COMMENT. EXCEPT FOR THE IRASCIBILITY OF LEGOUX AND AGIDI, TONE OF MEETING WAS SUBDUED. JAPANESE DELEGATION (SANO) DID NOT INTERVENE AT ALL, IN CAUCUS OR PLENARY. FRG (SCHMIDT-DAHLENBURG) SPOKE LITTLE, AS DID JOHNSON OF THE U.K. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE BOLIVIAN STATEMENT, THE PRODUCERS AVOIDED RECRIMINATION AGAINST THE U.S. AND OTNER "HARDLINERS" DURING THE LAST MEETING. THE CONSUMERS CAUCUS WAS SOMEWHAT LESS POLITE, WITH THE NETHERLANDS (VAN DIEST) SUGGESTING THAT "WE WOULD NOT FIND OURSELVES IN THIS SITUATION" IF THE COUNCIL HAD LISTENED TO HIM AND GIVEN MORE ON THE PRICE ISSUE, AND ONE INDIRECT BUT MILD REFERENCE FROM LEGOUX TO EXCESSIVE RIGIDITY ON PRICES.

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Message Attributes

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